

Mid-Winter 2010

## Love Your Library Month

Valentine's Day is in February, of course, but February is also **Love Your Library** month, and this edition of the Carrel suggests several ways in which you can partake in the various festivities happening over the next few weeks.

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### Inside this Issue

- 1 Love Your Library Month
- 2 Love Your Library Letter
- 3 Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- 3 The Carrel Online
- 4 Paula Poundstone
- 5 Bookmark Contest
- 5 Discovery Shop Grant
- 5 Nominations
- 5 Saturday Book Sale

- First up is membership renewal. February is the month in which we ask you to "re-up" with the Friends. Both our Summer and Fall issues detailed all of the ways in which your membership has helped the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library. From the purchase of books and media to events like the Craft Faire, the Fall Festival and Children's Story Time, our various programs have enhanced the library for all citizens of Chico. The Membership Renewal envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
- With Valentine's Day just around the corner you might think of one of these two ideas to help the library and the friends.
  - We are on a campaign throughout the county to have as many citizens become Library Card holders as possible. You might consider giving your spouse, parent, child or other loved one a library card for Valentine's Day. Sounds funny, but what better gift could you give that loved one than the gift of reading, and other media, which is all for free at the public library. Perhaps you have seen or heard CFOL board members Mary Wahl or Debbie Cobb-Ceriani on local TV or radio talking up the Library Card drive explaining that this is the best gift for life. If so you might take them up on their offer. Information is available at the library.
  - As an alternative or an addition to candy or flowers this Valentine's Day you might consider giving a membership to the Chico Friends of the library to a loved one. Our yearly membership rates start at \$15.00 and go up from there. So as not to confuse anyone with the enclosed envelope and a membership gift, the CFOL application form is available in a printable format on our website [www.chicolibrary.org](http://www.chicolibrary.org).
  - You might also consider buying your loved one a ticket to See Paula Poundstone at Chico State's Laxon Auditorium March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.. Poundstone and The CFOL are joining forces to fundraise for the Butte County Library.

Chico Friends of the Library  
P.O. Box 6952  
Chico, CA 95927  
Website - [chicolibrary.org](http://chicolibrary.org)

We recognize that these are difficult economic times for everyone. One only has to come to the library on Monday or Sunday and see that it is closed. Your board is committed to working towards solutions to rectify this situation. By your membership we are able to point out to both the County Board of Supervisors and the Chico City Council when they consider fiscal allocations how important the maintenance of a vibrant public library is to all communities within the county.

**To: Butte County's Friends of the Library**  
**From: *Love Your Library Committee***

### **Love Your Library Committee Formed**

In 2009, the Butte County Library budget was cut by over 20%. The possibility of a further 50% budget cut was averted only through the county's hard work and a new but temporary revenue source made available by the Sheriff's Department. Some of us, who remembered other years when the library budget had been cut and knew such reductions would undoubtedly happen again, set out to create a plan to avert this yo-yo funding. Representing various county communities, we met and formed the Love Your Library Committee.

### **Actions**

In the summer of 2009, Love Your Library (LYL) contracted for a professional survey to assess the feasibility of a parcel tax dedicated to the library. While there was substantial support, there were not enough library cardholders and Friends to pass a tax with the necessary two-thirds majority.

### **Goals**

The Committee decided upon two goals:

- Create and implement a citizen movement to support long-term, stable library funding through a voter approved parcel tax;
- Begin a countywide campaign to sign up 10,000 new library cardholders and 2,000 new Friends of the Library (FOL) members.

Both of these goals and a time line to achieve them were endorsed by all of Butte County's FOL groups.

### **Phase 1 – Begins Early 2010**

- A letter will be sent to 3,000 of Butte County's influential people. The letter will request their financial support and/or endorsements of LYL's goals.
- The drive for new library cardholders and FOL members will launch at about the same time.

### **Further Phases**

After Phase 1, LYL will focus on getting a parcel tax dedicated to library funding placed on the June 2012 ballot. This grassroots movement will include heavy media coverage, volunteer canvassing of voters, and a request to the Butte County Supervisors to place the measure on the ballot.

### **What All Friends Members Can Do**

- Help to sign up 10,000 new library cardholders and 2000 new FOL members.
  - ◆ Encourage everyone to get a library card and use the Butte County Library.
  - ◆ Ask your friends and family to join their local Friends of the Library.
- Stay aware of Friends activities and help out with them.
- Contact your FOL officers for specifics on how you can help.

## Barnes and Noble Bookfair

Support the Butte County Library by shopping at the Chico Barnes & Noble. In an effort to raise funds for their goal of building a countywide base of support for the Library, the Love Your Library Committee and the Chico, Durham, Gridley, Oroville, and Paradise Friends of the Library are working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a bookfair at the Chico Barnes & Noble store.

On Saturday, March 20, and Sunday, March 21, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, Barnes & Noble will contribute 15% of every sale made with a special bookfair voucher to the Love Your Library Committee. Vouchers will be available on the Friends' websites and at the branch libraries. If you don't have a voucher, simply tell the cashier that you "Love Your Library" and Barnes and Noble will credit your purchase toward the sale. If you are unable to go to the store on March 20 and 21, you may also call the store (894-1494) on those days and place a phone order. Again, be sure to tell the customer service representative that you "Love Your Library." Online sales cannot be credited to the bookfair.

In addition to contributing a percentage of sales, supporters may also purchase books and materials from a wish list created by each of the branch librarians to enhance their library collections. The wish lists will be posted at the branches in the weeks leading up to the bookfair and at the Chico Barnes and Noble on March 20 and 21.

The Love Your Library Committee and Friends groups would love to have your help in staffing this event. If you would like to support your library by participating at the store on March 20 and/or 21, please contact [www.chicolibrary.org](http://www.chicolibrary.org) or your branch librarian.

The CFOL has been informed by the USPS that the cost of mailing our newsletter The Carrel as of January 1, 2010 has increased. Are you aware that the newsletter is also published by our web guru on the CFOL website? You might consider reading The Carrel online rather than having the print version mailed to you. If you so decide there is a form available at our [www.chicolibrary.org](http://www.chicolibrary.org) that will help expedite the process. For up to date information regarding the CFOL the website is the place to look.

## “Paula Poundstone: 100% Paula”

Paula Poundstone, a mainstay on NPR's quirky weekly news quiz program “Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me,” will entertain Chico with her razor-sharp wit, on March 26 at Laxson. The Emmy-award winning comedian, author, and mother of three is also the spokesperson for ALTAFF, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association. She helps raise awareness for Friends of the Library groups and libraries by lending her name, voice, and humor. Her motto is, “If you haven't been to the library lately, you're overdue.”



The Chico Friends of the Library will be selling Paula Poundstone's book *There's Nothing in This Book That I Meant to Say* on the evening of the show. A percentage of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Chico Friends of the Library. Paula will sign copies of her book following the show.

Additionally the shows sponsors, Chico.

Performances and KCHO/KFPR Northstate Public Radio, have donated five tickets to her performance to CFOL. We will distribute these tickets by drawing names from all the Chico Friends who have paid their 2010 memberships by March 5.

You don't want to miss this live show, as Poundstone, a master of improvisation, revels in audience interaction during her performances. Tickets are available at: University Box Office, (530) 898-6333, [www.chicoperformances.com](http://www.chicoperformances.com)

**Chico Performances presents**

**PAULA POUNDSTONE**

**Fri., March 26 7:30 p.m.**

**Laxson**

**Auditorium**

**Purchase tickets at University Box Office or (530) 898-6333**

**A portion of proceeds from book and CD sales the evening of the show will be donated to**

**Chico  
Friends  
of  
the Library**

## **Bookmark Contest**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Bookmark contest for grade school and junior high school students has been announced by the CFOL board. Application blanks with rules can be picked up in the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library starting on March 1 and must be returned no later than March 31. The cash awards will be given to the winners during National Library Week on Wednesday April 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the Children's Room of the library. The theme for this years National Library Week is "Communities Thrive @ Your Library." Be sure to advise all about this exciting annual event!

## **Discovery Shop Grant**

The CFOL has received a \$10,000 grant from the Discovery Shop here in Chico to go towards "Bound to Stay Books" for the Children's Room. This is a great honor and the board of the CFOL thanks the board of the Discovery Shop for their confidence and recognition of the tremendous role the public library plays in our community. Thanks are also due to Kay Matsdorf for nominating the CFOL and our city library.

## **Nominations**

The annual meeting for the Chico Friends of the Library is in May. At that time we usually have a guest speaker that might be a local author, or a notable person in the community or a librarian. Also during that meeting we elect officers and board members for the upcoming fiscal year. Our officers are elected to a two year term with the president and secretary elected during even numbered years and our vice-president and treasurer elected on odd numbered years. Members-at-large are elected on a yearly basis. The CFOL board is a strong and vital volunteer group whose mission is to promote to the best of their ability our Chico branch library. If you or someone you know might like to toss their hat into the ring and be considered for president, secretary or member-at-large please do so by contacting the nominating committee at (530) 897-0675.

## **Book Sale**

Rob and Rosa, the Grand Poobahs of the Saturday CFOL Book Sale, have reported that during the 2009 calendar year they took in approximately \$52,000. If you are not aware, all money taken in by the CFOL Book Sale goes right back into the library for the purchase of books, periodical subscriptions, children's programs, etc. Next time you are in the library or at the book sale you might wish to say "thanks" to all of the wonderful volunteers that make this weekly Saturday event such a success. **Note:** Rob reported at the last board meeting that the sale will not take place on five dates this year when the library is closed for various holiday celebrations. Be sure to check with the library for those dates.

## **Library News**

We have been asked to advise all patrons of the library that beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> borrowers with long-overdue library materials will be referred to a collection agency.